

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS/DECISION RECORD

EA Number: AZ-020-2004-0115, approved September 16, 2004
Case File Number: AZA-31448
Project Name: Arizona State Association of Four-Wheel Drive Clubs 2004 4x4 Jamboree
Special Recreation Permit
Location: Public lands within the Lake Pleasant Resource Conservation Area located approximately five miles northwest of the town of New River, and 35 miles north of downtown Phoenix, Arizona. The area is within northern Maricopa County and southeastern Yavapai County.
Legal Description: Proposed routes are located in T9N, R2E, Sections 30 and 31; T8N, R1E, Sections 10, 13-15 and 24; T8N, R2E, Sections 6, 7, 17, 18, 20, 21, 27, 28 and 34; and T7N, R2E, Sections 4, 5, 8, 9 and 17. Proposed staging areas are located in T7N, R2E, Section 5.

Finding of No Significant Impacts:

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached Environmental Assessment, I have determined that the proposed action will not have any significant impacts to the human environment and that an environmental impact statement is not required.

Decision:

It is my decision to approve the Special Recreation Permit which authorizes the **Arizona State Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs** to conduct the **2004 4x4 Jamboree** on the selected routes and washes as described in the proposed action for the above NEPA document. The event is scheduled to be held October 15-17, 2004. The following routes administered by the BLM are authorized for use in conjunction with this event: Upper and Lower Terminator, Predator, Annihilator, Anaconda, Collateral Damage, Tip Top, Black Canyon, Die Hard and the Ridge Loop (see attached map). The permit will remain in effect providing the permittee complies with all permit terms, conditions and stipulations.

Rationale for Decision:

Special Recreation Permits are discretionary and may be issued on a case by case basis pursuant to 43 CFR 2930. For this proposed activity, a variety of routes are possible resulting in the potential of the final decision deviating from the proposed action submitted by the applicant based on resource impacts or other concerns. The EA for this proposed action analyzed potential impacts and although no significant adverse impacts were identified, serious concerns were identified for some routes. Based on the resource concerns presented in the EA, the decision has been made to not authorize use of the Armegeddon route. The sustained healthy condition of the riparian habitat is dependent upon many factors including adequate vegetation, large woody debris, proper soil distribution and bank stability. Based on the EA evaluation it has been

concluded that authorization of the proposed use on the Armegeddon route would continue to disrupt the fragile dynamic equilibrium of these resources eventually leading to severe degradation of the habitat. This degradation would not be in conformance with the riparian management standards for proper functioning condition for all riparian areas in Arizona as addressed in the “Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration” established in 1997.

For the remaining routes requested in the proposed action, specific mitigation measures (provided below) have been identified and included in the proposed action to lessen the potential impacts to these routes from the proposed use.

Mitigation Measures/Stipulations Included in the Proposed Action:

1. The conditions and stipulations listed on the back of the Special Recreation Application and Permit, Form 8370-1 (January 2002), and the “Arizona and Phoenix Field Office BLM Stipulations for Commercial OHV Event SRPs” are incorporated herein.
2. Sensitive and/or fragile areas, such as the middle section of Cottonwood Gulch, will be identified by the BLM at least one week prior to the event. These areas are to be clearly marked by the permittee with flagging, fencing, cones to ensure vehicles stay out of these areas. Temporary signs will be placed at these areas by the permittee to inform participants why the areas are sensitive or fragile and need to be protected.
3. The authorized ingress and egress points located on steep side slopes, such as those used for Die Hard and Collateral Damage, will be marked with flagging, fencing or cones to ensure new bypasses aren’t created or old bypasses are reopened for use. Within the next year, the BLM and the permittee will work together to determine how best to manage these points and rehab those that have excessive erosion or washout areas.
4. The perimeter boundary of the main base camp will be flagged by the BLM to protect the undisturbed desert areas. All use relating to this event is to remain within the established boundary. Temporary signs will be put up by the permittee to inform participants why the boundary is necessary.
5. No motorized use is allowed in riparian areas unless specifically authorized including the middle segment of Cottonwood Gulch between the Lower and Upper Terminator routes. Dispersed casual use OHV activities within the Agua Fria River segment between Gillette and Lake Pleasant Regional Park is also not authorized. Crossing riparian areas, including the Agua Fria River, on existing routes is allowed.
6. No vegetation trimming or cutting is permitted at the staging area or on the routes without prior authorization from the BLM.
7. Individual campfires are not authorized at the main base camp. A large group campfire is authorized at this camp. Individual campfires are authorized at the smaller family campsite. All

campfires are to be appropriately distinguished and dismantled prior to vacating the site.

8. Vehicles are to remain single file on all permitted routes. The creation of by passes is prohibited.

9. Educational materials on the desert tortoise and archaeological site protection will be provided to participants by the permittee.

10. Only one vehicle at a time is allowed to traverse the hard or extreme obstacles. Additional vehicles may be allowed if needed to assist other vehicles in trouble due to break downs or getting stuck.

11. Boulders or large rocks are not to be moved and/or stacked if it requires using hand tools or mechanical means. Rocks may be temporarily stacked by hand to get through a tough spot but are to be removed and scattered before the vehicles on that trip leave the area.

12. The permittee will ensure all stacked boulders and rocks are dismantled and scattered at the end of the event.

13. The permittee will sweep the routes after the event and pick up all items left behind on the routes such as vehicle parts, tires, trash, etc.

14. The permittee is responsible for, and assumes liability for, any discharge of motor vehicle fluids (defined as but not limited to, the spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, or dumping of gasoline, motor oil, transmission fluids and anti-freeze). Discharges will be cleaned up, removed and disposed of in accordance with applicable local, state and federal laws. Small discharges that can be wiped or dug up by hand, may be cleaned up and disposed of as regular waste. Discharges in larger quantities must be tested and if it exceeds soil remediation levels, it must be treated and disposed of in accordance with ADEQ regulations. The permittee will notify the BLM of all motor vehicle fluid discharges greater than one quart within 48 hours of occurrence.

15. Participants shall be advised that every effort must be made to avoid the discharge of fluids during four-wheeling activities, fueling, and while making vehicle repairs. All participants are strongly encouraged to carry hydrocarbon absorbent (such as Peat Sorb or Pig Pads) that can absorb a minimum of one quart of fluid. A cleaning product such as Micro Blaze or Simple Green should also be carried to remove fluid discharges on the boulders. When conducting vehicle repairs or re-fueling in the staging area or on the routes, some type of ground cover (such as absorbent pads or tarps) shall be used whenever possible.

16. On all trips, trip leaders or the tail gunners are to carry hydrocarbon absorbent products (such as Peat Sorb or Pig Pads) that can absorb at least three quarts of fluid. Leaders shall also carry a cleaning product such as Micro Blaze or Simple Green to remove fluid discharges on the boulders. Absorbent pads, a small tarp, or other type of ground cover must be readily available for when vehicle repairs or re-fueling is needed on the route.

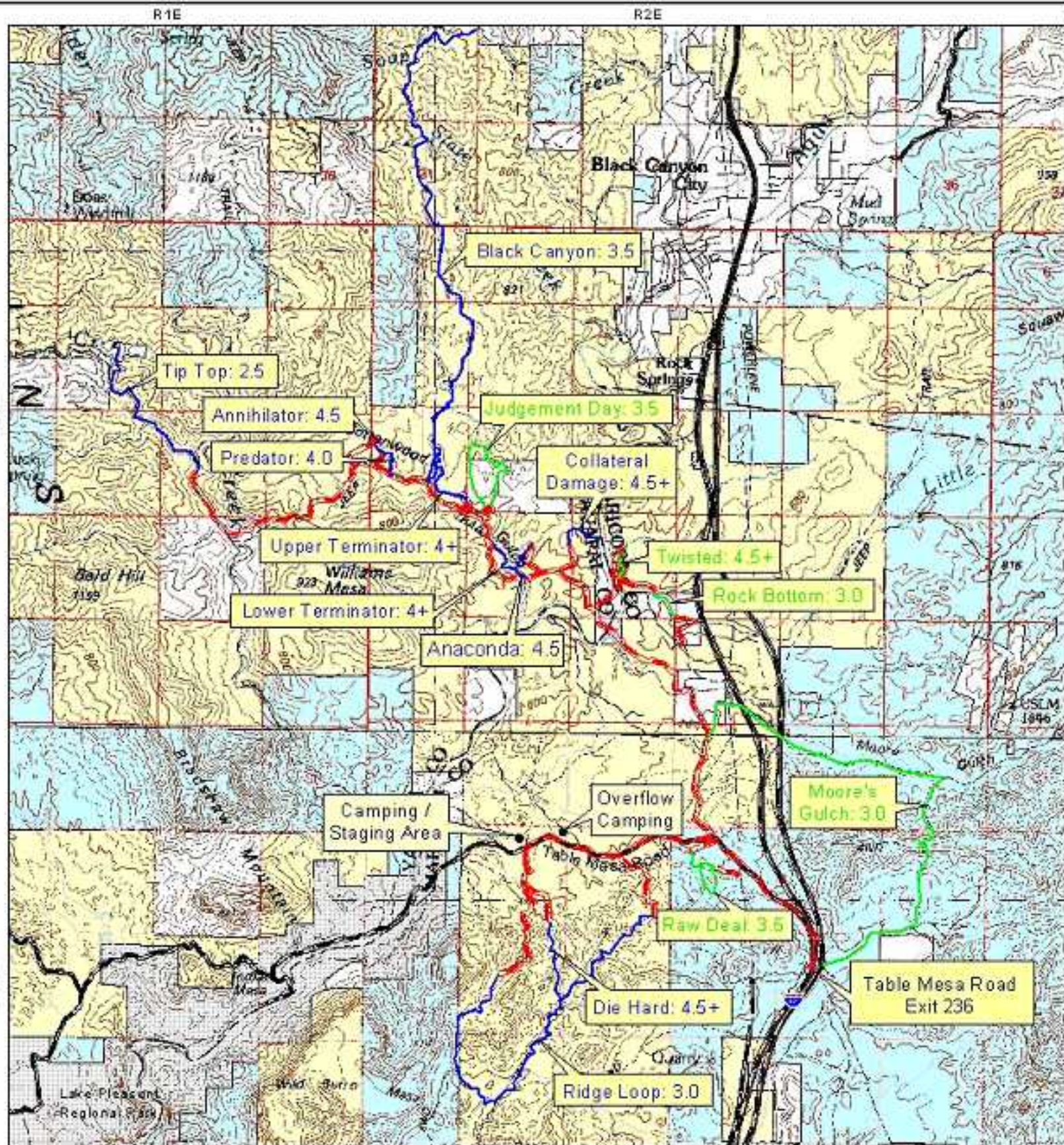
17. Extreme routes, rated 4.0 or higher, are not authorized for use by any event participant except during the guided trips scheduled on the Jamboree 2004 Run Schedule (see Appendix B).
18. This permit does not authorize use within the Lake Pleasant Regional Park. OHV use within the park will require the payment of the applicable park entrance fee.

Monitoring and Compliance

On the ground monitoring will be conducted by BLM staff to ensure these mitigation measures and stipulations are followed and no significant impacts occur during the proposed activity. Appropriate enforcement actions will be taken if needed.

/s/ Teresa A. Raml
Teresa A. Raml, Field Manager

September 16, 2004
Date



Approved ASA4WDC 2004 4x4 Jamboree Use Area



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No warranty is made by BLM for the use of this map for purposes not intended by BLM, or to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the information shown. Spatial information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This information may be updated without notification.

Portions of routes that traverse state, county or private lands ARE NOT authorized under this permit. Authorization must be obtained from the appropriate landowner for permitted activities.

Legend

